

# Teaching of Historical Materials Integration: Looking at the New China on the March of Triumph from the Perspective of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea

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## ABSTRACT

The war to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea has demonstrated national and military prestige, enhancing the international status of New China. This article takes the integration of historical materials as the theme, focusing on the international and domestic political, economic, military, diplomatic, and other situations faced by New China before and after the Korean War. Using the literature method as the main research method, relevant important historical materials are selected from three aspects: China in the eyes of the Americans, China in the eyes of the Chinese people, and China in the eyes of the world. The aim is to discuss the victory of the Korean War, which is a declaration that the Chinese people stand firm in the East after standing up, an important milestone for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and has important significance for the development and construction of New China.

**Keywords:** Korean War, The war to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, People's Republic of China, Socialism.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

History is an empirical humanities and social discipline that emphasizes logical reasoning and rigorous argumentation. The exploration of history aims to seek truth and reality, based on historical materials. Through the analysis of historical materials, materials that conform to historical facts are used as evidence to form a correct and objective understanding of history.

## 2. DANGER LURKS, AND BEING POWERLESS TO FIGHT: CHINA IN THE EYES OF THE AMERICANS

Historical materials 1: At the end of 1948, the U.S. Embassy in China reported to the U.S. State Department that the Chinese Communist Party had had a very difficult time after taking power, "the natural agricultural economy is in a serious crisis, and the part of the national economy organized in the Western way is in an equally serious predicament,

and there will be loosely controlled anarchy." The State Council's Department of Policy Planning concluded that "the CCP is incapable of addressing the real difficulties it faces."<sup>1</sup>

—The Minister Counselor of Embassy in China (Clark) to the Director of the Office of Far Eastern Affairs

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1. The Minister Counselor of Embassy in China (Clark) to the Director of the Office of Far Eastern Affairs November 8 1948, Foreign relations of the United States (FRUS), 1948VII,p.553; Memorandum by the Policy Planning Staff, September 7 1948, FRUS, 1949VIII,pp.152-153.



Figure 1 Situation of the Korean War.

Historical materials 2: On June 14, 1950, the US State Department formed an intelligence memorandum numbered IM-305 in response to Mao Zedong's speech at the Third Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee, stating that the speech "indicated that the Chinese Communist regime was facing a series of serious difficulties in China", "acknowledged the existence of bandits and guerrillas in China", "unemployment, famine, disorder, equal distribution of land, and economic difficulties, especially in the newly liberated areas, these difficulties were even more severe".<sup>2</sup>

— He Yanqing, The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China's Party History Research Office, "Understanding of the 'Communist regime' by US intelligence agencies before and after the Korean War".

- Teachers design question 1:

Based on the above historical materials and textbook content, what do you think of the New China in the eyes of Americans before the outbreak of the Korean War?

- Teachers can guide students to analyze historical materials and discuss how to derive from history:

The United States believes that the new China led by the Communist Party of China is facing difficulties in terms of political control, military action, and economic operation. The stability of the Chinese political power is the primary problem that the CPC's political power needs to solve,

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2. He Yanqing, The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China's Party History Research Office, "Understanding of the 'Communist regime' by US intelligence agencies before and after the Korean War", Communist Party History Publishing House, 2014, p62.

while New China is "powerless" to solve other international problems such as the Korean War.(see "Figure 1")

Historical materials 3: As soon as the Korean War broke out, the Truman government decided to adopt a policy of armed intervention and gradually escalated its intervention. The main actions include: the first is to increase military aid to South Korea; the second is to take advantage of the Soviet Union's protest against the United Nations refusing to accept China's inability to attend the meeting, manipulating the Security Council to declare North Korea as an aggressor; the third is to order the United States Navy and Air Force to attack the Korean People's Army south of the 38th parallel, providing maximum air protection for the South Korean army; the fourth is to manipulate the Security Council to pass a resolution calling on United Nations member states to "provide necessary assistance to the Republic of Korea to counter North Korea"; the fifth is to authorize MacArthur to bomb North Korea as a "purely military target," but "must clearly distinguish and avoid the borders of Manchuria and the Soviet Union." Army ground forces may be dispatched to the Busan area as appropriate to defend the ports and air base facilities there.<sup>3</sup>

— (U.S.) James F Schnabel, The US Army in the Korean War (Volume 2): Before and After the Outbreak of the War

- Teachers design question 2:

Based on the above historical materials and textbook content, teachers can ask: What measures did the United States take to "upgrade the intensity of intervention"?

- Students think and answer:

The United States manipulate the United Nations Security Council to pass resolutions, form a United Nations army led by the United States, cross the 38th parallel, and spread the war to the Yalu River and Tumen River on the China North Korea border, expanding the war.

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3. (U.S.) James F Schnabel, The US Army in the Korean War (Volume 2): Before and After the Outbreak of the War [M]. National Defense University Press, 1990, p78.

### 3. DEFENDING THE COUNTRY AND ACTIVELY FIGHTING: CHINA IN THE EYES OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE

Historical materials 4: “We cannot sit idly by as the US emperor expands its aggression! Readers of this newspaper have written letters advocating for the implementation of anti US aid to North Korea to protect their country, and many readers have expressed their willingness to participate in the anti aggression war in North Korea.” This is the first time that the slogan "Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea to Defend the Country" has appeared in newspapers in China. (see “Figure 2”)

— Published by the People's Daily on November 2, 1950



Figure 2 The front page of the People's Daily on November 2, 1950.

Historical materials 5: All democratic parties in China pledge to fully support the just demands of the people of the whole country, and to support the people of the whole country in their voluntary struggle for the sacred task of defending their country and resisting the United States and aiding Korea. (see “Figure 3”)

— Published by the People's Daily on November 5, 1950



Figure 3 The front page of the People's Daily on November 5, 1950.

Historical materials 6: The popular slogan at that time, "Resisting US Aggression and Aid Korea to Defend the Country", perfectly reflected Mao Zedong's full consideration of the issue of sending troops: the internationalist responsibility of the socialist camp, the revolutionary sentiment of treating US imperialism as a direct opponent, the leadership consciousness of protecting the security and sovereignty of New China, and the deep thinking of maintaining the strategic posture of the Sino-Soviet alliance. These four factors constitute Mao Zedong's basic motivation and purpose for making the decision to send troops.

— Shen Zhihua, Mao Zedong, Stalin, and the Korean War [M]. Guangdong People's Publishing House, 2013, p328.

- Teachers design question 3:

Based on the above historical materials and textbook content, teachers can ask the students to consider: Why did the United States make a wrong judgment on the issue of the Korean War?

- Students think and answer:

The United States disdains the power and potential of the New China and greatly underestimates the courage and proactive ability of the leaders and all Chinese people to resist the invasion of powerful enemies.

Historical materials 7: Abolish the feudal exploitation of land ownership by the landlord class and implement the land ownership of farmers, in order to liberate rural productivity, develop agricultural production, and pave the way for industrialization in New China. (see “Figure 4”)

— Article 1 of the Land Reform Law of the People's Republic of China



Figure 4 Land Reform Law of the People's Republic of China.

Historical materials 8: When New China was first established, about two-thirds of the country's farmers were still bound by the feudal land system. In the

summer of 1950, the Central People's Government promulgated the Land Reform Law of the People's Republic of China. By the spring of 1953, except for some ethnic minority areas, land reform had been completed throughout the country. More than 300 million farmers without land or limited land have obtained approximately 700 million acres (approximately 47 million hectares) of land. Farmers were completely liberated from the constraints of feudal land relations, and rural productivity was greatly liberated, removing obstacles for China's gradual industrialization. In 1952, the national grain production increased by 49% compared to 1949. (See "Figure 5")

— Outline of Chinese and Foreign History (Part 1), People's Publishing House, p175.



Figure 5 Farmers welcome land reform.

- Teachers design question 4:  
Based on the above historical materials and textbook content, the teachers can lead students to consider the relationship between the Korean War and Chinese land reform.



Figure 6 The Chinese People's Volunteer Army crosses the Yalu River.

- Students analyze historical materials and answer:

The war to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea was closely combined with domestic land reform, which raised the anti-feudal enthusiasm of farmers to the level of patriotism and made them aware that land reform was a movement to protect their vital interests. Farmers were completely liberated from the constraints of the feudal land system, and rural productivity was greatly liberated, removing obstacles for China's gradual industrialization; Provided a relatively stable material foundation for the Korean War.

Historical materials 9: In this purgatory battle, volunteer officers and soldiers were dressed in thin clothes, never retreated, willing to sacrifice their lives, and fearless of sacrifice. "I love my family and motherland, and I love my honor even more. I am a proud volunteer soldier. Ice and snow, I will never yield to you, even if I freeze to death, I will stand proudly on my position. "The soldiers of the Volunteer Army relied on this spirit, this fighting spirit, such lofty beliefs, and the heroic determination to live to death. Not only did they turn the Korean War into the "coldest winter" in the eyes of Americans, but they also condensed into the "mysterious Eastern spirit" in the ice and snow."(see "Figure 6")

— Published by the People's Daily on December 17, 1950



Figure 7 The flag of the 31st Regiment (Polar Bear Regiment) of the 7th Infantry Division of the US Army captured by the Chinese People's Revolutionary Military Museum.



Figure 8 Comparison of Some Economic and Military Indicators between China and the United States in 1950.



Figure 9 In July 1953, the Commander in Chief of the United Nations Army and the United States General Mark Clark signed the ceasefire agreement.

- Teachers design question 5:  
 Based on the above historical materials and textbook content,(see “Figure 7”, “Figure 8”, “Figure 9”) consider: Why were Chinese and North Korean able to win the war to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea?
- Students think and answer:  
 Because the Korean War is a just war, a war to defend national sovereignty and territorial security. This is the victory of justice! This is the victory of peace! This is the victory of the people!
- Teacher: Very good. We take this opportunity to revisit the spirit of resisting

the United States and aiding North Korea, which is the patriotic spirit of putting the interests of the motherland and the people above all else, and fighting for the dignity of the motherland and the nation; The revolutionary heroism spirit of bravery and tenacity, sacrificing life and death; The revolutionary optimism spirit that fearlessly faces difficulties and hardships, and always maintains high morale; The revolutionary loyalty spirit of fulfilling the mission entrusted by the motherland and the people, and generously dedicating oneself to everything.

#### 4. BEING PROUD AND BRAVE IN FIGHTING: CHINA IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

Historical materials 10: Undoubtedly, some people today believe that we should have blocked China's coastal areas, bombed bases in Northeast China, and even used atomic bombs. However, I am not the only one who can see that such actions cannot guarantee our military victory.

— (U.S.) Matthew Bunker Ridgway, *Memoirs of Ridgway - The 38th Parallel North*<sup>4</sup>

Historical materials 11: In a broad sense, the Korean War was not just a draw for China. It established the position of the newly formed People's Republic of China as a military power and the center of Asian revolution. It established China's military prestige as an awe inspiring opponent, which remained steadfast for decades to come.

— Kissinger's "On China"

Historical materials 12: From the 12th to the 21st century, apart from China, there will be no more communist countries in the world; And communism will also become a national consciousness in China. When China began to intervene in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, although it inevitably caused a considerable amount of fear, the Chinese Communist Army was able to defeat the powerful US military first and then reject it from the minefield. This power cannot be underestimated.

— (U.K) Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World 1941-1991*<sup>5</sup>

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4. (U.S.) Matthew Bunker Ridgway, *Memoirs of Ridgway - The 38th Parallel North* [M]. Xinhua Publishing House, 2013, p245.

5. (U.K) Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World 1941-1991* [M]. CITIC Press Group, 2014.

Historical materials 13: Before the victory of the Korean War, the image of New China in the international community and the potential power hidden by the Chinese people who stood up were not known to the world... Foreign historians also acknowledge that the cost of the People's Republic of China's adventure in Korea was indeed high, but the benefits of security and increased international prestige outweighed the cost.

— Liu Guoxin, *How to Understand the War of Resisting US Aggression and Aid Korea*<sup>6</sup>

- Teachers design question 6:

Based on the above historical materials and textbook content, teachers can guide students to think about the significant significance of the victory of the Korean War for the development and construction of New China.

- Students think and answer:

The victory of the war to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea broke the myth of the invincibility of U.S. imperialism, curbed its global strategy of hegemonism, stimulated the national spirit, stimulated patriotic enthusiasm, showed that the socialist new China led by the CPC has a strong determination and ability to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland, effectively promoted China's domestic political stability and economic development, won a stable external environment for the country's socialist industrialization, established the image of the Chinese nation in the world to resist enemies and aggression, and greatly improved China's international position and national self-confidence.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The spirit of resisting US aggression and aiding Korea will be immortal. Faced with the current world situation that is still undergoing division and turmoil, as well as the threat of international super hegemony, leading students to revisit and pay tribute to the anti-aggression war that shook the world and had a significant impact on the world's historical process, the historical educational significance of patriotism naturally becomes apparent.

Integrating historical materials into teaching, patriotism stays in the heart forever. The teachers select diverse historical materials (such as picture

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6. Liu Guoxin, *How to Understand the War of Resisting US Aggression and Aid Korea* [J]. *Frontline*, 2019, (05): 20-25.

historical materials, Chinese and English literature historical materials, etc.). Guided by a series of problem chains, teachers and students engage in dialogue and ideological collision with diverse historical materials. This not only cultivates and enhances the historical core literacy of students in empirical historical materials, but also stimulates and enhances their patriotism and sense of ownership responsibility. Therefore, they aspire to serve the motherland and contribute their own strength to socialist modernization construction, ultimately achieving a comprehensive combination of teaching and education.

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